

Coins of Nīmrōz.—By CHAS. J. RODGERS, *Honorary Numismatist to the Government of India, Honorary Member of the Numismatic Society of London, &c.*

(With Plate VII.)

[Read May 1896].

Nīmrōz is a country we most of us read of first, when we waded through the pages of that book so well known to us all when we first came to India, the باغ و بهار. I do not think Mīr Aman knew much of Geography or History, though he may have written good Urdū. We learn little from him about Nīmrōz. The origin of the name is said to be this, that when Solomon visited this part (and of course he did; for the Takht-i-Sulaimān is named after him), he saw the whole country west of Qandahār full of water. He ordered jinns and fairies to fill it up, and they did so in half a day, *i.e.*, Nīmrōz. Hence the country is called Nīmrōz. But perhaps it is so called from its being half way between Shām (Syria, and evening, *i.e.*, sunset) and India, *i.e.*, the mid-day country. Its capital was Zaranj, and we have early Khalifa coins struck in that place. But the country was also called Sijistān, and this name is found also on coins; for Naṣr, the brother of Maḥmūd of Ghazni, ruled and coined there. Zaranj and Sijistān disappear from later coins, and in their stead appears the name Nīmrōz. This country, travellers tell us, was formerly densely inhabited, as is shown by the ruins of numerous cities still visible. There is no doubt about coins having been struck there. Three are figured on Pl. XXXII, of the second Appendix to the Catalogue of Oriental Coins, published by the British Museum, *viz.*, 248e, 248g and 248m. Two of these are gold. In the text they are called coins of the Shirwān Shāhs. Dr. Codrington in his description of a hoard of coins found at Broach, in the *Journal* of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society gives two gold coins, Nos. 28 and 29, Pl. III, but he frankly says, "I do not know to whom to attribute them." The mint is legible on them نيمروز. He makes some small mistakes in reading the legends on them. He reads

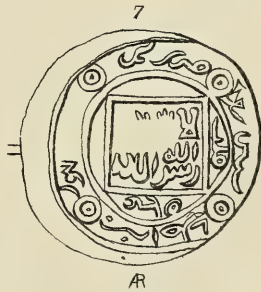
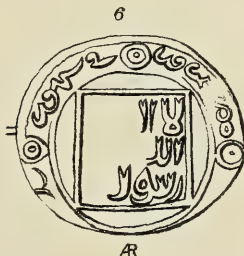
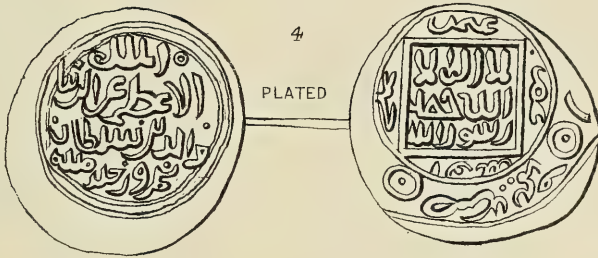
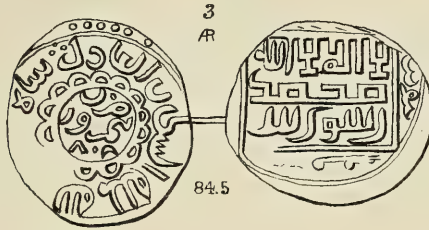
the date correctly, and makes both the coins of the 8th century of the Hijrah. Some years ago I came across some Nīmrōz coins of the Ṣafavīs of Persia ; after that some coins of Naṣr, brother of Maḥmūd, came into my hands. These were all in silver. Shortly afterwards I came across some copper Nīmrōz coins, and I purchased them from their owner who hailed from Qandahār. Then some plated coins came from the same city along with a gold coin, and I bought the lot. Some of these are described in my Lahore Museum Catalogue. I sold the gold coin to, I think, Mr. L. White King, along with some of the plated coins. The Ṣafavī coins are now dispersed, some being in the Lahore Museum and some in the British Museum. Coins 12* and 15a in the Supplement to the B. M. Catalogue of Persian coins, p. 265 and 256, were from me. It will thus be seen that I have been interested in coins from the Nīmrōz mint for some time. It will be remembered that in my paper on "Some coins from Qandahār" I gave some from this mint. Hence when the coins of the Society were sent up to me to be catalogued, I at once saw there were no less than 29 coins in silver and nine in copper from this mint.

The coins in the accompanying plate are all from the Nīmrōz mint,

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| (1) | عز
بحق و
الدين | ضرب
نيمروز |
| (2) | عدل | ضرب
نيمروز |
| (3) | In scalloped circular area :—
ضرب
نيمروز
۸-۸ | In square area :—
the Kalimah. |
| | In margin :—
السلطان العادل شاه... الله ملكه | |
| (4) | In double circle :—
الملك
الا عظم عز الدنيا
والدين سلطان
نيمروز خاد ملكه | In square area :—
the Kalimah.
In segments, the names of the
four companions.
In margin :—
ضرب نيمروز |

- (5) In circular area :—
 الملك
 الا عظم عز
 الحق والدين
 كورمان محمود
 Not given.
- (6) Not given. In square area :—
 the Kalimah.
 In margin :—
 ضرب نيمروز في شهر سنه.....
- (7) Not given. In square area :—
 the Kalimah.
 In margin :—
 ضرب نيمروز... لهور سنه احدى ستين سبعماية (761 H.)
- (8) الملك
 الا عظم عز الحق
 والدين كورمان
 بن محمود
 Not given.
- (9) Not given, but
 as on (8) In square, the Kalimah.
 (... 3 H.) ... سنه ثلاث
- (10) do. As on (9), but margin :—
 ضرب نيمروز..... و ستين و سبعماية (76-H.)

There can be no doubt about the coins Nos. 1 and 4 to 10 being coins of the same man. But I cannot find out who he is. He would be reigning just before the time of Taimūr; but in the histories of Taimūr I see no mention of him. The name of the king on coin No. 3 is unfortunately deleted. Coin No. 4 never had a king's name on it. One of the gold coins in the B. M. Catalogue Additions, Vol ii., is called قطب بحق والدين عز الحق والدين كورمان بن محمود. This must be the son of محمود بن كورمان. So we have here three kings' names and their country given. I cannot find in my limited library any mention of any one of them. I have given the coins. I leave the solution of the question as to who the men were who struck them to some one who is fortunate enough to possess a history, dealing with this part of the world at the time when the coins were struck. The coins at any rate show us how useful they can be in directing attention to kings and countries whose history is but little known.



C. J. Rodgers del.

NIMROZ COINS.